

Chairperson: Jason Bashura
 Vice Chairperson: Audra Nixon
 Executive Secretary: Maura Rossman, M.D., Antigone Vickery
 Recorded By: Kandyce Hopkins

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

September 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes

DATE: September 28, 2021
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual - WebEx

Members Present: Audra Nixon; Emily Greenberger; Melinda Kantsiper; Stacey Bisnette; Judith Chernoff; Jason Bashura; Paul Nagy; Jill RachBeisel; Matt Reber; Anthony Wisniewski
Members Excused: Erica Martin
Staff: Maura Rossman, Health Officer; Antigone Vickery, Deputy Health Officer; Kandyce Hopkins, Management Associate
Guest: N/A
Public: N/A

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action / Follow-up
Welcome and Call to Order	The meeting was called to order by J. Bashura at 6:05 p.m.	
Approval of Minutes Committee Reports	<p>J. Bashura proposed June's minutes for approval. Motion to approve September's minutes by P. Nagy, 2nd by A. Nixon. Minutes approved unanimously.</p> <p>Horizon/Diabetes/Equity Taskforce-N/A</p> <p>BOH Strategic Plan and Retreat Committee- P. Nagy, J. Chernoff, and E. Martin met with Dr. Rossman to discuss the functions of the BOH and what ways it can be more effective and in alignment with the Howard County Health Department (HCHD). The committee's goals are (1) understanding the role of an advisory board member as it relates to involvement in activities, (2) determining how members can be an advocate and engage as ambassadors for public health in the County, (3) determining and aligning members' interests with opportunities to contribute to HCHD's mission, and (4) participating in team building exercises. Dr. Rossman clarified that any meeting of the Board of Health (BOH) that specifically discusses board business is subject to the Open Meetings Act in response to J. Bashura's previous suggestion to conduct a separate meeting on the topic.</p> <p>Nominations Committee- Dr. Rossman and J. Bashura thanked Paul Nagy for his service to the Board of Health, and ultimately, the citizens of Howard County through this service.</p>	<p>The Board to meet for a half an hour for a social activity. BOH Strategic Plan and Retreat Committee to facilitate this.</p> <p>The nominations committee will meet before the next meeting and present on findings relative to the vacancy on the Board created by P. Nagy's departure.</p>

<p>Old Business</p>	<p>Youth Task Force- N/A</p> <p>Board Orientation- Dr. Rossman conducted a brief board orientation presentation. HCHD is a state agency operating at the county level. The department is charged with enforcement of various federal, state and county laws and regulations in addition to providing a variety of services that address the public and population health needs. The County’s BOH is an 11-member volunteer board that meets nine times a year. The authorities of the BOH, and the Health Officer are laid out both in county and state codes. The BOH may set fees in connection with rules and regulations. In addition, there are powers and provisions that each county or city BOH may adopt enforce rules and regulations for any nuisance. The BOH may assist and cooperate with the Secretary of the MD Department of Health (MDH) on matters related to health issues and sanitary interests of people living in the county, advise the county executive and the county council on behavioral health matters, issue subpoenas, administer oaths and apply for injunctive relief and as an appeals board for decisions of the health officer. The BOH can review and make recommendations on any matter related to public health. J. Bashura is the Board chair, A. Nixon is the Vice Chair, Dr. Rossman (Health Officer) is the secretary. The members are appointed to 3 year terms. Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month excluding July & August.</p>	
<p>New Business</p>	<p>LHIC: J. Bashura and S. Bisnette represented the BOH on two of the LHIC round tables [that will inform the LHIC strategic plan]. The HCHD is also developing a 3-year strategic plan. BOH will be asked to provide input into the strategic priorities at the next meeting scheduled on Thursday, October 21st 830 am to 1030.</p> <p>Board Expiration: BOH members should review the BOH composition matrix to know when their term expires. M. Reber’s term expires in June 2022. New member Anthony Wisniewski introduced himself to the BOH.</p> <p>Summer Intern: Over the summer, a student reached out for an internship opportunity with the BOH. J. Bashura suggested developing a project that could be beneficial for the BOH to align with the youth of Howard County. There is no current scope of work, as there is no precedent of a student working with the BOH. J. Chernoff suggested that the student attend October’s meeting.</p> <p>Vaccine Passport: A. Wisniewski suggested that the BOH consider in an advisory capacity, the implementation of a voluntary vaccine passport distributed by Howard County Government that will enable county residents to voluntarily share their vaccine status in order to help the community return to normal activities. Board members questioned whether a vaccine passport is redundant and subject to counterfeiting, like vaccine cards. Dr. Rossman advised there are apps, such as MYIR and Pinpoint, where citizens can access</p>	<p>J. Bashura will have an update regarding the student at the next meeting.</p> <p>J. Bashura will share his ideas with the</p>

<p>Board Chair's Report</p> <p>Health Officer's Report/ COVID-19 Report</p> <p>Misc</p>	<p>their immunization record. Enforcement is left to local government and businesses. MDH is not mandating a vaccine requirement for employees at this time.</p> <p>J. Bashura plans to refocus his role on the BOH as it relates to environmental health policies practices in the county, and the impacts that it has in public health.</p> <p>Dr. Rossman has provided the BOH with the HCHD's monthly report, which details the comprehensive work of the department. The HCHD Strategic Planning group invited the BOH to participate in a facilitated discussion next month. Next month time will be allotted to get feedback in order to set goals of what the local public health department will be prioritizing in the next 3 years. The Pfizer booster shot has been authorized. Vaccinations for 5-11 years old could potentially be authorized in late fall. Howard County's positivity rate has held steady.</p> <p>P. Nagy announced that BOH member E. Martin was going to be unavailable due to medical issues and wanted to extend a note of well wishes to Erika from the BOH.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.</p> <p>Next meeting is October 26, 2021.</p>	<p>Board at the October meeting</p> <p>Background data will be sent to the board for review and presented during the meeting, followed by facilitated discussion. The members will provide feedback. LHIC to be further discussed in the future.</p>
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